

REMARKS

The present filing is responsive to the Examiner's concerns noted in the Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-19 and 23-24. These claims have not been rewritten given the traversal of the outstanding rejections below.

Summary of the Response

Claim 1 has been amended to correct the preamble. New dependent claims 25 and 26 have been added. Claims 3-8 have been previously canceled. Claims 1, 2 and 9-26 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-2, 9-11 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the Applicant's own admitted prior art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the present action, when comparing to the AAPA, the Examiner stated that "a small voltage drop will appear at node N1 and N2 before they turn off again...". Further, the Examiner responded to Applicant's earlier arguments, stating that the claims did not claim explicitly the voltages at the nodes are both dropped by the voltage dropping circuit.

Claim 1 as previously presented recites: "a voltage dropping circuit dropping voltages on a first node located between said first input portion and said first output portion and a second node located between said second input portion and said second output portion before changing from a state in which said first input portion is disconnected from said first node to a state in which said first input portion is connected to said first node". (Independent claim 2 contains analogous recitations.) Referring to the embodiment shown in Fig. 3, the first node corresponds to N1, the second node corresponds to N2, the first input portion corresponds to In1, the second input portion corresponds to In2, the first output portion corresponds to Out1 and the second output portion corresponds to Out2. The recited voltage drop is implemented at a time before the connection between the first input portion and the first node changes from disconnected to connected (as opposed to before making connection between the first input portion and the first node.)

The Examiner referred to the AAPA, "a small drop in voltage will appear at node N1 and N2 before they turn off again, thus, disconnecting the first input portion with the first node or the second input portion with the second node". Applicant is not sure what "small drop in voltage" is the Examiner referring to. However, regardless, the Examiner is referring to a small drop in voltage before disconnecting the first input portion with the first node. Hence, even if such small voltage drop is present, the effect is completely opposite to the claimed invention. The recited voltage is dropped to a low voltage Vs_low (e.g., ground Vgnd) using the voltage dropping circuit corresponding to TFT 5 and TFT 6. Referring to Fig. 4, the presence of the signal Sd3 turns on the TFT 5 and TFT 6 to drop the voltages at nodes N1 and N2, before TFT 2 and TFT 3 are turned on with signal Sd1 to connect the first input portion In1 to the first node

N1 and the second input portion In2 to the second node N2. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the claims with the foregoing in mind.

As argued in Applicant's response to the earlier office action, AAPA does not disclose any structure that corresponds to such voltage dropping circuit. AAPA teaches that *the node N1 is connected to the high voltage power supply 21 through TFT 4* and inverter 12 and the node N2 is connected to the low voltage power supply 22 through an inverter 11, during time t₀-t₂. Further, the TFT 2 and 3 are turned on at time t₃ to connect input portions In1 and In2 to nodes N1 and N2 respectively. Namely, the *node N1 is not dropped before* input portion In1 is connected to node N1 before time t₃. Thus, AAPA does not teach or disclose *the voltages on the nodes N1 and N2 are both dropped* by voltage dropping circuit (e.g., TFT 5 and 6 in the disclosed embodiment) before changing from a state in which first input portion is disconnected from first node to a state in which said first input portion is connected to first node. As AAPA does not disclose that voltage dropping circuit *drops the voltages* on the nodes N1 and N2 before changing from a state in which first input portion is disconnected from first node to a state in which said first input portion is connected to first node, as claimed in amended independent claim 1 of the present application, AAPA cannot be deemed to anticipate claim 1.

For at least similar reasons present above with respect to claim 1, AAPA does not disclose the recited first and second voltage dropping circuits recited in amended independent claim 2 of the present application. All the dependent claims 9-19 are therefore likewise patentable over AAPA for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 2. Further, dependent claims 9-19 include limitations that further distinguish from AAPA.

New claims 25 and 26 have been added to depend upon claims 1 and 2 respectively, to round out the coverage of the patentable aspects of the present invention. Claims 25 and 26 are

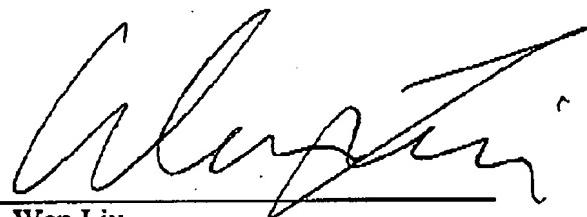
likewise patentable over AAPA for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1. Further, claims 25 and 26 more specifically requires the voltage drop to ground voltage, which further distinguishes from AAPA.

Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims 25 and 26 should be entered after final, since the rejection of base claims 1 and 2 have been traversed. In the event that the Examiner continues to find claims 1 and 2 not to be patentable, new claims 25 and 26 would reduce issue on Appeal.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

Respectfully submitted,



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